

Memorandum

Date: April 16, 2012
Telephone: (916) 654-4894
File: 11-AFC-2

To: Commissioner Karen Douglas, Presiding Member
Commissioner Carla Peterman, Associate Member
Hearing Officer Kenneth Celli

From: California Energy Commission - Mike Monasmith
1516 Ninth Street Senior Project Manager
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM (11-AFC-2)**
STATUS REPORT #4

Per the November 16, 2011 Committee scheduling order, Energy Commission staff hereby file Status Report #4 for the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS).

Given the brief period of time that has elapsed since the Committee was last updated on the status of this proceeding (at the April 3, 2012, Status Conference), this report will focus on the primary technical areas of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) on which staff continues to work. Additionally, as in all previous Status Reports, an updated schedule is included in the attached indicating staff's commitment to publish its PSA on or before May 24, 2012.

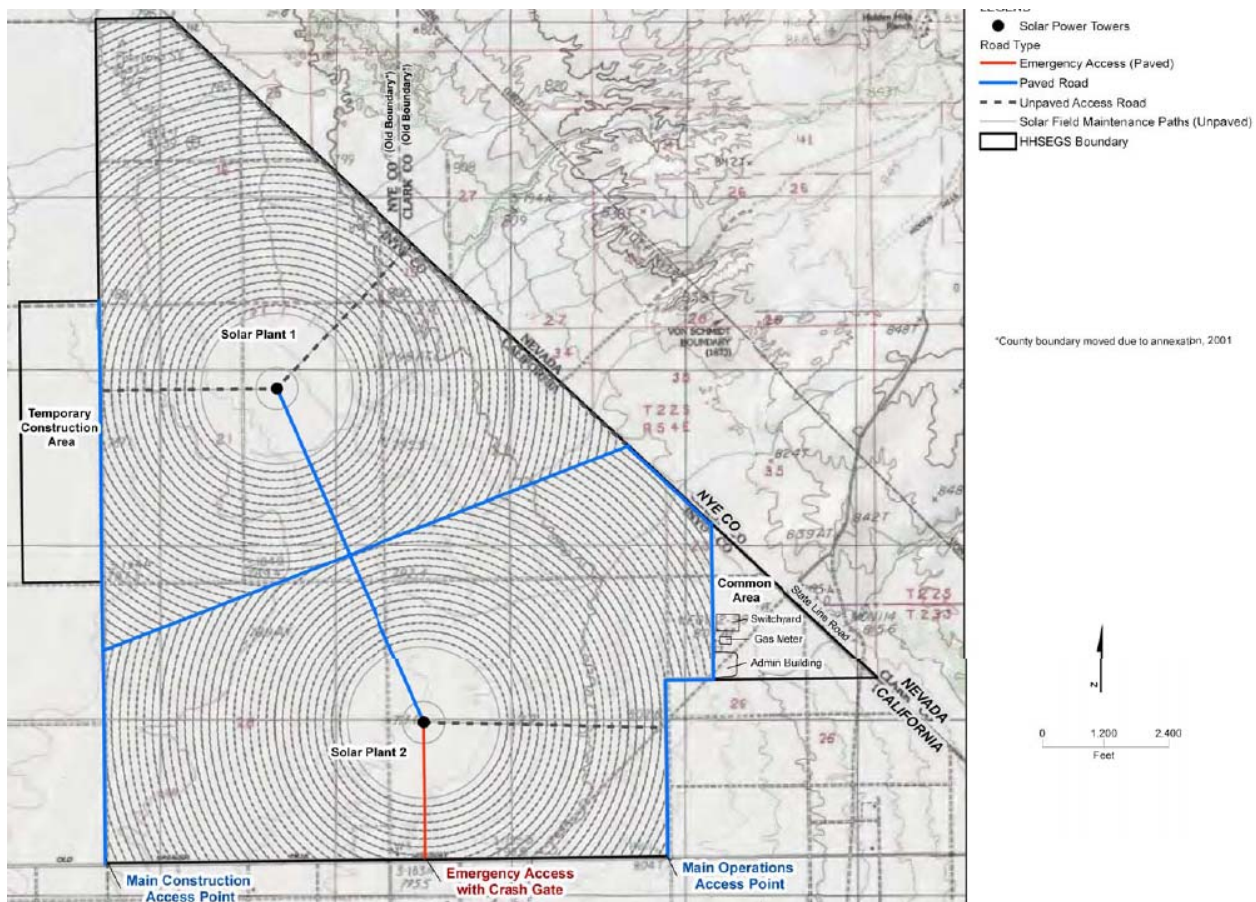
PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 3/22/12) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 4/16/12
EKS

PROCEEDING UPDATE

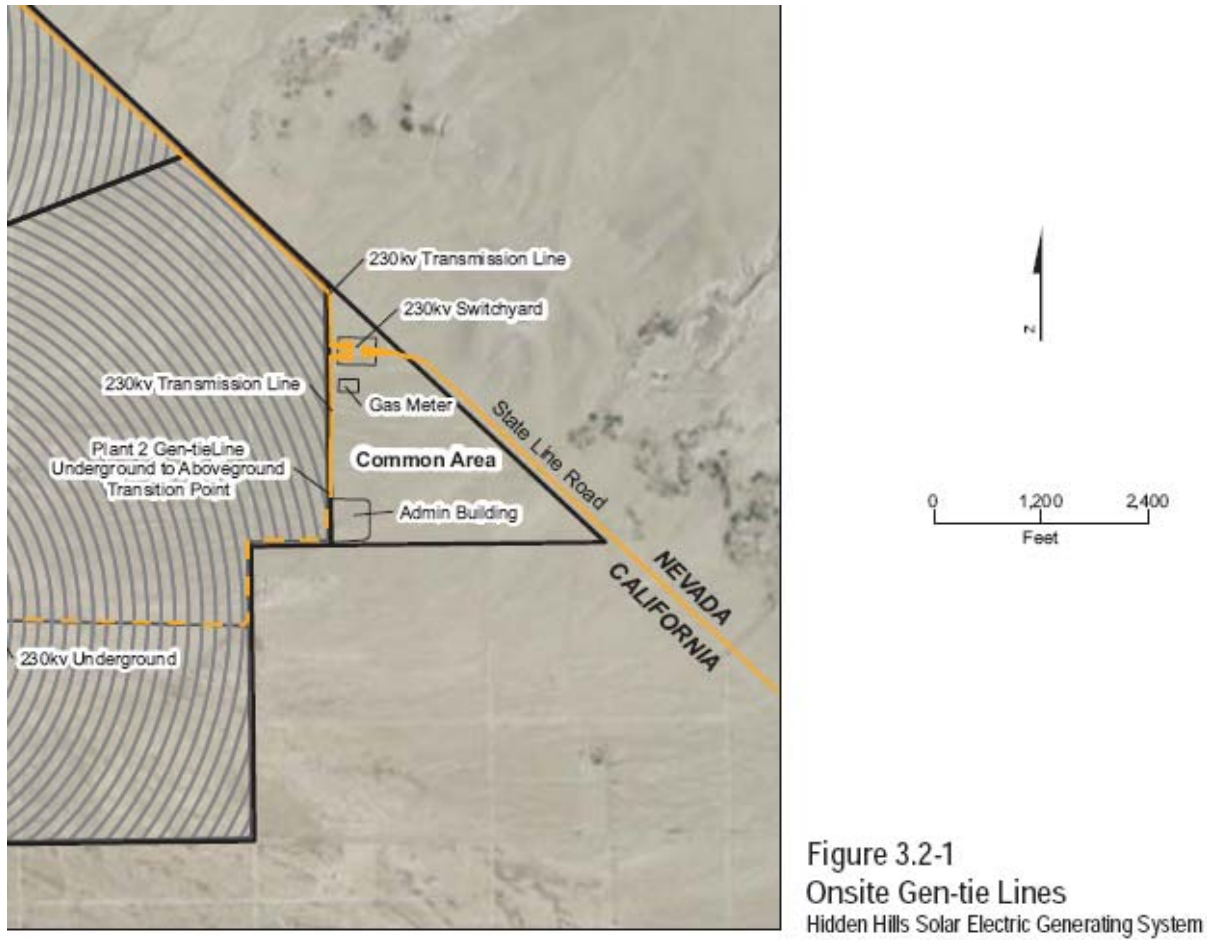
On April 2, 2012, Applicant filed its Boiler Optimization (Design Change) Plan. The Design Change would move the 230kV onsite switchyard and natural gas meter station from the Common Area (depicted below in AFC Figure 3.2-1) east into an undisclosed, offsite area in Nevada. While the change in location of the switchyard is reported to be attributable to new direction the applicant received from the Bureau of Land Management regarding offsite transmission linears, several new issues have arisen that will now need to be resolved by staff. The Applicant indicated in its April 2, 2012 filing that no significant impacts would result from the Design Change in any technical area (and in fact would be reduced in the area of Visual Resources given the elimination of above-ground transmission poles). However, staff is nonetheless concerned and seeks to resolve questions in several areas, including:

Biological Resources / Soil Resources: will the trenching required to underground transmission lines from Solar Field 1 and Solar Field 2 transect key ephemeral washes that constitute state and federal waters (especially along the California/Nevada border)?

Traffic and Transportation: will the new undergrounded transmission configuration From both Solar Plant 1 and Solar Plant 2 necessitate new or additional roads?



Transmission System Engineering: Absent a revised one-line diagram and a revised switchyard configuration, will key Phase II study findings/recommendations from the CAISO need to be revised? For your information, AFC Figure 3.2-1 (below) depicts the originally-proposed location of the 230 kV Switchyard and 230kV Transmission Lines.



Another area of concern by Energy Commission staff involves development standards along Tecopa Road, which runs along the southern boundary of Solar Field 2 and the proposed project site. The applicant states that a 20 foot set-back from Tecopa Road is necessary and appropriate, whereas Inyo County staff has indicated 25-50 feet plus additional (10 feet) right-of-way¹. Given unknown glint/glare issues from the proposed project to passing motorists on Tecopa Road (clarification for which was asked of the Applicant in Data Request Set 2E issued on April 5, 2012), it is important that various technical staff (including Land Use, Traffic & Transportation and Visual Resources) obtain data responses.

¹ INYO 2012f – Inyo County/J. Hart (tn: 64221) Inyo County Letter to CEC's Melissa Mourkas Regarding Aesthetics and Visual Impacts. 3/20/12

Lastly, staff did take the opportunity to issue one last round of Data Requests (Set 2E) on April 5, 2012 as part of Discovery. The data requests were made in the areas of Biological Resources (Burrowing Owl), Land Use (development standards and set back requirements along Tecopa Road, and a decommissioning and reclamation inquiry), Public Health (inquiry regarding input data for Applicant's 2011 Ambient Air Quality Modeling and Screening Health Risk Assessment File), and Traffic and Transportation and Visual Resources (glint/glare issue with passing motorists along Tecopa Road mentioned earlier).

All of the above-listed technical areas (as well as Socioeconomics and Water Resources issues discussed in previous Status Reports and Status Conferences) will be discussed at the upcoming Issues Resolution Workshop on April 26, 2012 in Sacramento. In terms of Socioeconomics, staff continues to work with Inyo County staff to better understand and determine fiscal impacts related to HHSEGS. Accordingly, staff will need to obtain data to determine what portion of property and sales tax revenues will be paid to Inyo County by the applicant in order to offset the County's demonstrated increase in county services and costs.

SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	DATE
AFC filed	08-05-11
AFC Data Adequacy determination at Commission Business Meeting	10-05-11
Status Report #4	04-16-12
Issues Resolution Workshop	04-26-12
Committee Status Conference *	05-01-12
Status Report #5	05-15-12
PSA Publication	05-24-12
Committee Status Conference*	06-04-12
PSA Workshop (SE Inyo County) – 2 days?	06-14-12
Committee Status Conference*	07-19-12
FSA Publication	08-01-12
Committee Status Conference*	08-16-12
Prehearing Conference*	09-01-12
Evidentiary Hearings*	09-08-12
PMPD*	11-15-12
CEC Final Decision*	12-28-12

*Committee-directed events



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM***

**DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-2
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 3/22/2012)**

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*indicates change

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Elizabeth Stewart, declare that on April 16, 2012, I served and filed copies of the attached **(11-AFC-2) Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System, Status Report #4** dated April 16, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- X Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- X Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- X by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT
Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-2
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally signed by
Elizabeth Stewart
Project Assistant